TL 3753

Conference Sub-themes:

- Reversing ASEAN's role: From creating a wall of silence around the issue of East Timor to advocating conflict resolution as regional peacemaker.
- Uphold and protect human rights in Indonesia and East Timor. Freedom for all East Timorese and Indonesian political prisoners. Freedom for Xanana Gusmao.
- Demilitarize East Timor. Recall all Indonesian troops and abide by the United Nations resolutions on East Timor.
- Strengthen international solidarity for East Timor. Observe November 12 as the International Day of Solidarity with East Timor.
- Strengthen the Asia Pacific Coalition for East Timor (APCET) and other solidarity formations for East Timor.

Organization of the Conference

The Second Asia Pacific Conference on East Timor is organized and convened by the Asia Pacific Coalition for East Timor (APCET) Steering Committee, composed of eight members from different countries. Japanese Roman Catholic Bishop Emeritus Aloisius Nobuo Soma is APCET's honorary chairperson.

A Convenor Group composed of personalities from different NGOs and POs in Malaysia will act as the host committee of the conference.

The Second Conference Secretariat

The Second Conference Secretariat will be jointly composed by the Manila-based Secretariat of APCET and the Secretariat of the local Host Committee in Kuala Lumpur.

Accommodation

Participants shall be billeted at a hotel in Kuala Lumpur where the conference will be held. The name and the exact location of the hotel, including ways to get there, shall be sent to the participants after they have confirmed participation, sent registration forms and finalized flight details. Please relay all the participant information to the conference secretariat in Kuala Lumpur and mail similar details to the APCET coalition secretariat in Manila.

A fee of US$ 200.00 shall be collected upon registration. Accommodation at the hotel shall be provided starting November 8 up to 12 noon of November 12. Rooms are at triple and double occupancy. Meals will be served from lunch of November 8 up to breakfast of November 12. All meals shall be served at the conference venue except breakfast which shall be served in a restaurant just outside the hotel.

In the event of a change of conference venue, participants shall be provided transportation from the hotel to the session halls and back.

For early arrivals, late departures and overlay programmes, please relay these to the conference secretariat for assistance.

For inquiries and confirmation of participation, kindly contact:

APCET II Conference Secretariat
c/o *Suaram Kommunikasi*
11 Road 1A/71E, Jalan Carey, 46000 PJ
Selangor, MALAYSIA
Tel: 603 7943525 Fax: 603 7943526
E-mail: apcet@gv.net.my

Participants are requested to mail photocopy of registration form to the APCET coalition secretariat:

c/o Initiatives for International Dialogue
2 Matulungin Street
Central District, Diliman
Quezon City 1101, PHILIPPINES

East Timor

the continuing search for peace

The 2nd
Asia- Pacific Conference on East Timor
8-12 November 1996
Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

From May 31 to June 5, 1994, more than 200 individuals gathered at the Malcolm Hall of the University of the Philippines to attend the First Asia Pacific Conference on East Timor (APCET). The Conference challenged Indonesia's annexation of East Timor and condemned the brutal acts of human rights violations committed against the Maubere people.

At the end of the event, the Asia Pacific Coalition for East Timor (APCET) was born. Since its establishment two years ago, the Coalition's efforts has been geared towards providing advocacy assistance, building awareness, lobby work, networking and organizing.

These initiatives and efforts point to the urgent need of bringing up the East Timor issue to the attention of government heads, legislators, church hierarchy, regional and international bodies and urging them to take up the East Timor "agenda".

The need to resolve the East Timor problem and place it in context becomes all the more important in the face of recent Indonesian military government's efforts to crush the democratic movement now strengthening and gaining popular support in Indonesia.

The 2nd Asia Pacific Conference on East Timor

In 1996, the Asia Pacific Coalition for East Timor calls for a Second Asia Pacific Conference on East Timor to continue and intensify what was started in 1994. The Second Conference, to be held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, is scheduled from 8 to 12 of November 1996 to coincide with the fifth anniversary of the Dili massacre when Indonesian troops in East Timor fired at a funeral procession for an activist, killing more than 200 innocent mourners.

To mark this event that happened in 1991, an International Day of Solidarity with East Timor will be declared at the Second Conference.

Not only is Indonesia's annexation of East Timor in the limelight, but the resurgence of the people's democratic movement which the Suharto government was able to suppress in the past three decades.

Creating conditions for fast-tracking the peace process in East Timor must be the concern of all and will be the main focus of discussions during the Second Conference. These discussions shall hopefully then lead to explore further the role of the network of East Timor and Indonesian solidarity groups around the world in this process.

The Second Conference also aims to bring up the East Timor peace process with government heads, legislators, church hierarchy, regional and international bodies like the United Nations, Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC), and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN).

In line with these targets, the Second Asia Pacific Conference on East Timor will aim to host the initial meeting of the Asian Parliamentarians for East Timor or PET-Asia. The Second Conference will provide a very conducive venue for dialogue between the parliamentarians and non-government and people's organizations towards more effective action in support of the struggle in East Timor.

An immediate action of the network after the 2nd Conference is to bring up the East Timor issue at the Manila People's Forum on APEC which will be held parallel to the APEC summit in the Philippines from 17 to 26 of November 1996. The Manila People's Forum on APEC will be host to hundreds of grass-roots leaders, parliamentarians and development workers from the region including solidarity groups and support networks.

P R O G R A M

DAY 1, FRIDAY, 8 NOVEMBER
- Arrivals
- 2:00 Orientation and billeting
- Consultations
  - *Program committee*
  - *Conference working groups*
- 4:00 Press Conference
- 6:00 Opening of exhibits and booths
- 7:00 Malaysian reception

DAY 2, SATURDAY, 9 NOVEMBER
- 9:00 Opening Ceremonies
  - *Invocation*
  - *Welcome Remarks*
- Keynote Speech
  "The Continuing Search for Peace in East Timor"
- 11:00 Presentation
  "Neighboring peoples' role in the making of peace in East Timor"
- Report of the APCET and country affiliates
- 2:00 Workshop 1: *"Finding out solutions"*
  women • indigenous peoples • Indonesians • religious groups • solidarity advocates
- 4:30 Workshop Reports
- 5:30 Forum
  "Democracy and Human Rights in Indonesia"

DAY 3, SUNDAY, 10 NOVEMBER
- 9:00 Presentation of Peace Proposals:
  - Resistance movement inside Timor
  - Pro-integration forces
  - Resistance movement from outside Timor
  - ASEAN peoples'perspective
- 2:00 Workshop 2: *"Strategic Actions"*
  lobby • media • legal • networking
- 4:30 Workshop Reports

DAY 4, MONDAY, 11 NOVEMBER
- 9:00 Consultations and Caucuses
  - Asian Parliamentarians for East Timor
- 11:30 Plenary: *Resolutions*
- 2:00 Closing Ceremonies
  - Reading of Conference Statement
  - Closing Remarks
- 4:00 Press Conference
- 7:30 Solidarity Night

DAY 5, TUESDAY, 12 NOVEMBER
- Solidarity March: *International Day of Solidarity with East Timor*
- Departures

DAILY SCHEDULES:
roll call: 8:30am • morning tea: 10:30 • lunch: 1:00 • afternoon tea: 4:00 • dinner: 7:00

Be an APCET Affiliate

The Asia-Pacific Coalition for East Timor (APCET) is a coalition of local, national, regional, sub-regional and international organizations and institutions that have or are willing to get involved in solidarity initiatives on East Timor. It is an offshoot of the much-ballyhooed Asia-Pacific Conference on East Timor held in Manila in May 1994.

At the APCET Council meeting held in Bangkok on February 5-6, 1995, it was decided that affiliation should be formalized for all organizations that have signified their intention to be part of APCET.

Local organizations who wish to be part of the APCET may join the national APCET affiliates in their respective countries. They may also be part of APCET as local affiliates if they are not a member of an APCET national network or if there is no existing national APCET affiliate in their country. APCET Council encourages them to start their national networking for APCET.

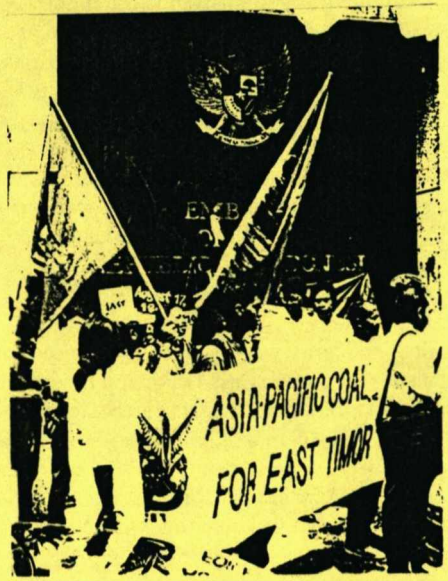
National, sub-regional and international affiliates of APCET shall pay an annual fee of US$50.00 to help defray coalition expenses. Local affiliates may pay depending on their capability.

The Council also decided that organizations which are national, sub-regional, regional or international in character may affiliate with APCET and may have full voting rights in the Council. Local affiliates may attend Council meetings but will not have voting rights.

Join the APCET now! Contact you national APCET network or send us your application for affiliation and be part of the 2nd Asia-Pacific Conference on East Timor.

Write to us at
The APCET Secretariat
c/o Initiatives for International Dialogue,
2 Matulungin Street, Central District
Diliman, Quezon City 1101
PHILIPPINES
Telefax: (632) 9216774
E-mail: IID@emc.gn.apc.org

November 12
International Day of Solidarity with East Timor



November 12 Dili Massacre

On November 12, 1991, about 300 East Timorese men and women were unmercifully slaughtered while accompanying the remains of a slain activist to the Dili Cemetery. Many were killed instantly. The first rush of spilled blood failed to quench the soldiers — they proceeded to bayonet the wounded to death.

The Dili massacre was captured in video and the film was slipped out of East Timor. Quickly, it became the spark for the international community to learn about the truth in this small country. East Timor has since then clearly become an international concern.

In November 1995, a group of prominent personalities from the Catholic church, governments, human rights institutions and people's organizations tried to visit the site of the massacre in commemoration of the event. They had planned to light a candle and offer prayers in remembrance not only of the three hundred people killed in Dili, but the hundreds of thousands more who perished under the 20-year illegal occupation by Indonesia. They were shooed away by Indonesian immigration authorities out of East Timor and Indonesia.

To mark the 1991 Dili massacre, and in full recognition of the East Timorese people's right to self-determination, **November 12** will be declared the **International Day of Solidarity with East Timor** at the Second Asia-Pacific Conference on East Timor.

An Appeal for Your Endorsement of the 2nd Asia-Pacific Conference on East Timor

"... let justice flow like a stream, and righteousness like a river that never goes dry."
(Amos 5:24)

The military-backed Suharto dictatorship in Indonesia continues to steamroll justice and righteousness in East Timor. The year 1995 up until the first half of 1996 may well be the period of the *ninja* squads, mass arrests, demonstrations and riots, including the deluge of asylum seekers.

Newspaper headlines captured it all: *East Timorese women lament 20 years of rape; East Timor rebel leader seized, possibly killed; Indonesian army blamed for January killings; Jakarta backing 'ninja' squads in East Timor?; Five killed, soldier hurt in new East Timor riots; Timorese leader goes on hunger strike in jail; Jakarta pours cold water on Timor issue.*

That period also saw the open display of solidarity between Indonesian and East Timorese human rights activists. This was shown by the series of demonstrations and occupations of embassies in Jakarta where Indonesians openly supported East Timorese asylum seekers.

On the other hand, a new conduct in the systematic violation of the Maubere people's rights has emerged. With the design of driving a wedge between freedom-loving Indonesians and East Timorese, Suharto is stoking the religious conflict bogey and setting it up as the opposite to the real cause of the widespread unrest inside East Timor: the Maubere people's terminal frustrations and anger over the illegal occupation of their country.

Obsession with market economics in the name of Asian solidarity has strengthened Suharto's resolve to engender worldwide apathy over the murder and mayhem perpetuated by ABRI as well as the wanton exploitation of East Timor's patrimony by Indonesia's industrial elite. This is abated by the desire of Asian states and their Western partners to "sweep under the rug" all obstacles to the promotion of a climate of open trade and investment and, of course, to partake in Indonesia's neo-colonial booty.

Asian states are scrambling to exploit the opening-up of the huge Asian market while advanced capitalist countries are skirmishing to avail of more investment and trading opportunities. This milieu has in turn motivated Asian states to

strengthen their military capabilities while at the same time forging stronger security and military ties.

While enhanced security and business cooperation among Asian and Pacific states may have relegated old feuds and suspicions to the background, it has proven to be detrimental to the interests of non-self-governing nations like East Timor. The Indonesian-Australian fait accompli over the vast oil reserves in the Timor Gap is a case in point.

But cracks in the Suharto monolith have appeared. It indicates the growing realization among the Indonesian peoples that Suharto and his minions have to go.

Two years ago, the watershed Asia-Pacific Conference on East Timor (APCET) transpired in Manila. This was a turning point in the international campaign on East Timor and more so for the Maubere people's struggle for self-determination. APCET's aftermath unmasked ASEAN realpolitik for what it is - characterized by Big Brother Indonesia's virtual domination of the regional grouping - revealed for all the world to see.

We must meet again.

Specially now as East Timor continues to be battered by the occupier. As the conflict has reared an ugly specter - of how certain quarters project the issue as a religious strife. This lie has to be smothered at the bud even as we continue to probe for peaceful solutions.

It is likewise time to consolidate the gains that emerged from APCET - a victorious, broad, Asian-based peoples solidarity movement for East Timorese resistance and human rights.

It is time to convene the Second Asia-Pacific Conference on East Timor. We shall explore and exhaust all the possible avenues for peace in East Timor and how we in the international community - states or social movements - can contribute in bringing about peace and justice to the long suffering nation of East Timor.

We appeal for your endorsement of the Second Asia-Pacific Conference on East Timor as an expression of solidarity. Together, WE SHALL OVERCOME!

Surely, justice will rush headlong like water in a torrential river, cleanse the Maubere and Indonesian peoples midst of the homicidal Suharto dictatorship, and inundate the two nations with righteousness.

We await your formal endorsement of the APCET II. Solidarity statements are also most welcome.

A luta continua!

Bishop ALOISIUS NOBUO SOMA
Honorary Chairperson, APCET

With a people's democratic movement gaining ground and popular support in Indonesia, it is all the more fitting that East Timor supporters step up pressure on Suharto to listen to the aspirations of both the Indonesian and East Timorese peoples.

The Asia-Pacific Coalition for East Timor enjoins all committed organizations and freedom-loving people to celebrate November 12 as the International Day of Solidarity with East Timor. Simultaneous peoples' actions around the globe will certainly demonstrate a unified and strong adherence to an independent East Timor and democratic Indonesia.

These actions shall hopefully then lead to the broadening of East Timor solidarity groups and popular support from around the world.

The Raising of Flags

To declare solidarity with peoples is to raise high their colors. Raising the flags of East Timor and Indonesia in our solidarity actions will signify the rebirth of both an independent East Timor and a democratic Indonesia.

Simultaneously, we may burn the ABRI flag, the colors of the Indonesian military dictatorship to signal the downfall of the Suharto regime. While we do this, we cry out to the governments and peoples of the world:

"DISARM THE SUHARTO DICTATORSHIP.
FREE EAST TIMOR!"

As we celebrate the International Day of Solidarity with East Timor, we call on the Indonesian government and the whole world to our demands:

Self-determination for East Timor!

Freedom for all East Timorese and Indonesian political prisoners.

Recall all Indonesian troops and abide by the United Nations resolutions on East Timor.

Strengthen international solidarity for East Timor. Strengthen the Asia Pacific Coalition for East Timor (APCET) and other solidarity formations for East Timor.

Activities

The solidarity actions will have more impact if we hold them in front of Indonesian embassies in our respective countries to challenge the Indonesian government. The uniform flag raising parts of our actions will show the whole world the oneness of our voice.

Other suggested activities are indoor forum and rally, religious services, marches and cultural activities.

Coordinate activities with your local East Timor solidarity network now. Write to us at APCET 2 conference secretariat in Kuala Lumpur.